

Dear Committee Members:

My Mom told me that you are considering changing the way BESB operates. I have been receiving services for 14 years. I was born blind and at the beginning my family and I were really scared.

Today, if you met me you would smile. BESB is teaching me weekly the Braille code, they provide me with great technology so I can keep up at school, and an O&M instructor visits my school to teach me how to get around independently. I attend BESB programs and field trips and get to meet other kids in the State that have the same challenges I do. Every year since kindergarten my teachers from BESB have taught my class about Vision Loss and how I learn so that I can do the same course work with modifications. I just made high honors.

I attend Helen Keller Middle School in Easton and Ms. Keller is my inspiration. I did a report about her when I was in third grade. I am using a quote by Helen Keller in my Middle School yearbook that reads; " the best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Please find in your hearts to keep BESB together.

Thank you for considering my letter, I hope to meet you someday in Hartford.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Harrington